



Comm warriors ensure reliability

C2 training pivotal to mission success

Mr. Mike David

HQ ACC/A6 Warfighter C3 Support

LANGLEY AIR FORCE BASE, Va. — Command and Control systems administrators and network administrators are a team at the forefront of making sure air and space power is employed by the Joint Forces Air Component Commander and wing-level operational commanders.

Specialized initial qualification training for these specialists and communications officers is essential to ensuring the availability and reliability of the information systems used for C2 and combat operations. The specialization and expertise required of C2 comm warriors, coupled with the high ops tempo faced today, make them a low density high demand force.

In order to make sure this force is ready, C2 specialists and communications officers obtain technical training and gain expertise through organized instruction and on-the-job-training in specific tracks of learning. Though C2 Comm Warriors are trained on a variety of systems, the three primary C2 systems for which formal IQT specialized training is provided are the Global Command and Control System, Theater Battle Management Core System — Force Level and TBMCS-Unit Level. There are five GCCS technical training tracks, three TBMCS-FL training tracks (supporting the Air and Space Operations Center) and one TBMCS-UL track (supporting wing-level operations).

Unit training managers identify, track and schedule individual C2 specialists for training based on specific duty positions and job responsibilities. Specialized resident training is available for people who have mastered prerequisite instruction and require advanced system specific instruction. This training model builds the skills necessary to keep systems, databases, and network infrastructure fully functional to support C2 and combat operations.

The Air and Space Operations Center Weapon System uses many systems to provide the JFACC with the tools

to prosecute air and space power in a theater of operations. Initial qualification for C2 specialists and comm officers assigned to an AOC is provided through the 505th Command and Control Wing's AOC WS Formal Training Unit, Hurlburt Field, Fla., formerly known as the C2 Warrior School.

The system administrator track is for people assigned as C2 System administrators. The network administrator track is for people assigned to Information Assurance, configuration management and network administration duties. The communications officer track is for communications officers assigned to AOC duties. Course information is available by visiting the 505th CCW Web site at: <https://505ccw.hurlburt.af.mil/505trg/505trs/index.htm>

GCCS technical training is conducted at Keesler AFB, Miss., and provides an integrated set of analytical tools and flexible data transfer capabilities to enable crisis and deliberate action planning. It supports warfighters from the strategic to the tactical level. GCCS also fuses information from various data feeds into a common operational picture of the battlespace for C2 operations. New GCCS training is in the works. When complete, it will be segmented into four levels of training comprised of eight different courses, with each level a prerequisite to the next level. Course information is available through the Education and Training Course Announcements Web site at: <https://etca.randolph.af.mil>.

TBMCS-UL provides C2 capability for wing-level commanders. TBMCS-UL enables automated aircraft sortie scheduling, aids in the execution and status of the Air Tasking Order, enhances base-level situational awareness and facilitates resource management and intelligence support. Base communications specialists working with TBMCS-UL in support of wing daily flying activities attend the TBMCS-UL system administrator course at Keesler AFB. Course information is available through the Education and Training Course Announcements Web site at: <https://etca.randolph.af.mil>.

C2 comm warriors are considered a critical success factor in ensuring Air Force C2 systems are operationally available for combat operations. The training received and the expertise they develop are pivotal to ensuring C2 operations are planned, executed and assessed for mission success. (*Capt. Brian Munoz contributed to this article.*)